

DECEMBER 2025

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YSGOL EIFIONYDD BULLETIN



A FEW WORDS FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we come to the end of a busy and successful term, I would like to extend warm wishes to all our families for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This term has been filled with rich activities that reflect the dedication, creativity and care of our whole school community. A highlight of the term was the **School Service at Capel y Porth**, where our pupils delivered excellent performances. We are also proud of the caring work carried out within the community, including visits to care homes and welcoming members of the community into the school. The term has been a vibrant one, with a wide range of valuable experiences for pupils across all year groups, and pupil voice has continued to play a central role in school life through the various councils. Thank you sincerely to pupils, staff and families for your continued support. We wish you all a happy and safe Christmas holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year.

Mr Dewi Rhys Jones

Open Evening and Transition Sessions

Our Open Evening was held in October and proved to be a very special occasion for the Eifionydd community. Year 6 pupils from our catchment area and their families were given a valuable opportunity to experience a taste of the unique provision on offer at Eifionydd. The evening included live music performed by two Year 7 pupils, **Joel Campbell** and **Gwern Pugh**; tours of the faculties; a presentation by the Headteacher and members of the School Council; opportunities to meet staff and pupils; and the chance to sample savoury and sweet treats prepared by the **Design and Technology** department and the **Canteen**, along with a few special surprises. As part of our transition arrangements, Year 6 pupils from the catchment area were also welcomed back to Eifionydd during the week to attend, Health and Wellbeing taster mornings. During these sessions, pupils had the opportunity to make **reindeer** cakes and take part in a **Martial Arts session**, providing a practical and enjoyable insight into school life. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our teachers and our highly talented pupils for their willingness to help and for making these events personal and truly unique to us here at Eifionydd.



YSGOL EIFIONYDD



IEITHOEDD, LLYTHRENNEDD A CHYFATHREBU

Digital Safety and Learning in the English Department

As outlined in the letter sent to parents and guardians last week, the school continues to be concerned about the misuse of mobile phones and social media, and the serious risks this can pose to pupils' safety and wellbeing. We thank parents for their ongoing support in monitoring their children's digital usage and reinforcing the school's expectations.

During this term, the **English Department** has been exploring the influence of social media as part of the curriculum. **Year 9** pupils have written an analytical essay on the topic of the media, demonstrating an increasing understanding of impact, responsibility and the ethical implications of the digital world. We are proud to share one particularly strong example of mature writing by **Grace Hughes** in **Year 9**, which highlights critical thinking and a high standard of written expression. Please follow the QR code to read the essay.



EIFIONYDD ADVENT



Christmas Dinner

Once again this year, a wonderful Christmas dinner was enjoyed, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the **canteen staff**. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to them for their tireless efforts in preparing a special meal for everyone to enjoy.



Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children

Here is a snapshot of the school's efforts this year to show our support for the charity **Save the Children**. Christmas Jumper Day was held on 11 December, with pupils and staff taking part enthusiastically and contributing to a very worthwhile cause. Thank you to everyone for their support and generosity.

Year 8 Christmas Visit to Penrhyn Castle

On Friday 12 December 2025, **Year 8** pupils enjoyed a lovely educational visit to **Penrhyn Castle**. Pupils had the opportunity to explore the castle and learn about its history, deepening their understanding of life in the past and the social and historical context associated with the site. The visit was a valuable and inspiring experience, supporting classroom learning and encouraging curiosity and interest in local and national history.



STEM Opportunities: Chain Reaction Challenge

Working in partnership with **Bangor University**, an exciting **LEGO Spike Prime STEM workshop** was held for **Year 9** pupils at Ysgol Eifionydd. Pupils were given a valuable opportunity to design, build and code models using the LEGO Spike Prime kit, developing creativity, problem-solving skills and computational thinking. The workshop provided a practical and relevant experience of modern technology, inspiring pupils to see how STEM is applied in the real world and raising awareness of higher education and future careers in the field.



Year 8 Educational Visit - Railway 200, Llandudno

Recently, **Year 8** pupils had a valuable opportunity to visit the **Railway 200 Exhibition Train at Llandudno Station** as part of cross-curricular work between the **History** and **Science departments**. During the interactive experience, pupils explored the development of the railways over the past 200 years, linking their learning about the Industrial Revolution with scientific concepts such as engineering, design, energy and technological development.

Pupils also took part in practical **STEM activities** and discussed how scientific innovation has influenced society and modern transport. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to see clear links between curriculum subjects and real-world STEM careers, strengthening pupils' understanding and enthusiasm for learning.



Visit to Hafod y Gest and Bodawen Care Home

As part of the **school's Advent celebrations** within the community, a group of pupils visited **Hafod y Gest** and **Bodawen** to deliver a special Christmas performance for the residents. A delightful performance was given by **Joel** and **Gwern** from Year 7 on the piano, **Gwawr** from Year 8 and **Gwen** from Year 9 on the French horn, and the performance was warmly received by all who attended. In addition, residents from **Hafod y Gest** were welcomed to Ysgol Eifionydd for an afternoon tea, which was prepared and served by pupils from the school. Many thanks to everyone involved in making these community visits so successful and worthwhile.



Christmas Silent Disco – Year 7

Sincere thanks to the **Urdd** for hosting a Christmas silent disco for Year 7 pupils last week. It was a fun-filled experience and a real treat for everyone who took part.

The i-Create Department – Term Highlights

This term has been a busy one, filled with rich opportunities for pupils in the **i-Create Department**. Highlights included:

- A visit to **Aria Studios** for Year 7 pupils to see the set of *Rownd a Rownd*
- Music workshops led by DJ Endaf for some Year 8 and 9 pupils, as part of the Music Service project
- Collaboration with the i-Communicate Department to create cartoon-style images and portraits in Year 7 Art lessons
- The Christmas Concert at Capel y Porth
- Seeing Erain Jên and Elain Perry appear in the second series of *Stad*
- A gospel singing workshop delivered by the Music Service

Thank you to everyone involved in organising and supporting these enriching activities.



Creative Council and Craft for Wellbeing Club -The **Creative Council**, the **Design and Technology Department**, and the **Craft for Wellbeing Club** have been very busy this term contributing to the creative life of the school. Activities included **creating Christmas decorations** and **designing the poster and programme for the Christmas Concert**. Thank you to the pupils for their valuable contribution.

Christmas Service

Heartfelt thanks to **EVERY** pupil who took part in our **Christmas Service held at Capel y Porth** this year. The talent and dedication were truly inspiring. Here are some photos of just a few of the talented pupils we have here in Eifionydd.



History and Archaeology Club

One of the new clubs established this year is the **History and Archaeology Club**. During the sessions, pupils solve puzzles and challenges in order to discover archaeological sites and figures from Wales and beyond. The club offers opportunities to develop research skills, critical thinking, and independent working, while fostering an interest in history and archaeology.

Design and Technology

The term has been highly productive, providing pupils with a wide range of meaningful experiences for pupils in the **Design and Technology department** to explore and discover. Pupils took part in **PobUrdd** and **CogUrdd** competitions at school and regional level, developing independent practical cooking skills. A successful visit was made to the **Winter Fair**, where pupils competed in activities such as felting and creating Christmas trees. In addition, pupils worked hard in the **small garden**, contributing to keeping the school environment tidy and attractive. As part of the department's **Advent activities**, mince pies were prepared for **Hafod y Gest**. A **Christmas Quiz** for Year 7 was also held and was thoroughly enjoyed by the pupils.



Health and Wellbeing

The term was filled with a wide range of **Health and Wellbeing activities** across the school. **Anti-Bullying Week** was held, with pupils showing their support by wearing odd socks. Year group assemblies were also led by **Mr Gareth Crowe** and **Mrs Lona Roberts** and were very well received. As part of **Children in Need** activities, pupils supported the cause by wearing their own clothes, and cakes prepared by Year 10 **Food and Nutrition** pupils were sold. Year 9 pupils created a **Kindness Calendar** with 24 ideas for helping others during the festive period, alongside a **Recycling Advent** initiative outlining 12 different ways to recycle. Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to learn **Makaton** signing to accompany a Christmas song, and valuable presentations were delivered by **PC Rhiannon Wright**.



Year 11 Prefects

We are pleased to introduce the Year 11 Prefects, who have been selected by teachers based on their **responsibility, reliability, respectful behaviour, good attendance, punctuality**, and their role as **positive role models within the school**. We look forward to developing this important role further this year, as they contribute to a positive atmosphere. Congratulations to **Justin, Ciron, Gethin Hughes, Gethin Carter, Harri Pugh, Hari Edwards, Non, Tesni, Purdey, Emily, Lily, Maizie, Sasha, Kian, Jac Rhys, Edward, and Deio**.

Sporting Achievements of Ysgol Eifionydd

We are extremely proud to congratulate a number of pupils from Ysgol Eifionydd on their recent sporting achievements, representing the school, the county, and the region at a high level. **Lottie Jenkins, Elsa Edwards, Siwan Jones, and Mari Evans** were selected to represent the **Gwynedd Schools Team** — a fantastic achievement and clear evidence of their commitment and skills. In addition, **Lottie** has also been selected to take part in a **regional FAW programme**, another notable accomplishment. Congratulations also to **Callum Smith**, who took part in trials in Cardiff and has been selected to represent the **North Wales Under 14 Football Team**. We are incredibly proud of him and wish him every success. We are also delighted with **Celt Carr**, who has been selected to represent the **RGC West Under 16 Team** and has already played several matches for the team. Furthermore, congratulations to **Lucas Smith** on representing the **Gwynedd Schools Under 15 Football Team** in matches against Wrexham and Conwy. We would also like to extend our warm congratulations to **Scarlett Harvey**, who represented the **North West Wales Academy Under 13 Netball Team in Cardiff** and has also recently attended **netball trials at the Brailsford Centre**. Finally, well done to **Grace Morgan, Elenid Wynn, and Scarlett Harvey** for competing in **dance competitions in Liverpool** last month. Well done to you all — we are extremely proud of you at Ysgol Eifionydd.



Educational Trip to Italy!

Recently, Year 9 pupils went on an educational trip with the **Humanities department** to the **Bay of Naples**, which was an incredible and unforgettable experience. Pupils had the opportunity to visit **Pompeii** and **Herculaneum**, walk up **Mount Vesuvius**, and visit the island of **Capri**, enriching their understanding of the history, geography, and culture of the area. The trip was a valuable and inspiring learning experience for everyone who took part.

Angori i-Ragori and i-Lywio, i Lwyddo

Angori i-Ragori (*Anchoring to Excellence*) is a **whole-school approach** that supports pupils in **striving for excellence** by focusing on learning processes, higher-order thinking skills, and self-regulation. The approach is embedded within tracking, review, and reporting systems, enabling pupils to understand their progress and take ownership of their learning journey.

i-Lywio, i Lwyddo (*Navigate to Succeed*) is a flexible, optional, whole-school **enrichment programme** available to all pupils. It empowers pupils to plan and manage their own learning, choose approaches that work for them, and pursue opportunities that broaden the curriculum and deepen understanding. We look forward to embedding these processes further across the school, continuing to develop a culture of ambition, ownership, and independent learning.



Clwb Cymru

Ysgol Eifionydd's **Clwb Cymru** was established this year with the aim of **promoting Welsh identity** and creating a space for pupils to communicate and socialise through the medium of Welsh. The first meeting was held on **Tuesday 14 October**, welcoming **Siân Eurig, Secondary Language Strategy Coordinator**, to celebrate **Shwmae Su'mae Day** and to discuss the benefits of bilingualism and language practices.

As part of the celebrations, **Year 7** pupils took part in a **Greetings Hunt** around the school, learning different ways to greet others in Welsh. In addition, **Year 9 Welsh Second Language** pupils shared "Support the Language" posters in local shops, encouraging the community to start conversations in Welsh. This is a positive and inspiring initiative that strengthens the use of Welsh within the school and the wider community.



Review of Our Behaviour Policy

We would like to sincerely thank all parents and carers who took the time to complete the recent feedback questionnaire. Your input was extremely valuable and has contributed directly to the development of the school's new **Behaviour Code - The Way Forward**. Although the behaviour code has now been introduced, we continue to seek further ways to improve and refine our systems and processes. As part of this ongoing process, we would like to offer parents and carers a further opportunity to share their views and suggestions to help us develop further. We would greatly appreciate it if you could complete this questionnaire using the QR code provided. Thank you once again for your continued support and cooperation.



School Councils

We are pleased to share that the school councils have now been established:

School Council, Health and Wellbeing, Eco School, Welsh Identity, and Creative.

The councils have been very busy this term, undertaking a range of duties and positive initiatives. We look forward to seeing even more work and exciting developments in the new year.



Merry Christmas to Everyone!

Thank you all for a term full of hard work and dedication at **Ysgol Eifionydd**.

Enjoy the Christmas holidays — a well-deserved break to rest and relax properly. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Important Dates

Reopening for Pupils: Tuesday, 6 January, 8:55am

The Behaviour Code: The Way Forward

A new **Behaviour Code** has been introduced at **Ysgol Eifionydd** following consultation with **staff, parents/carers, and pupils**, ensuring that everyone's voice was included in the process. The aim of the code is to ensure consistency across the school, reflect a positive ethos, and provide all pupils with a clear understanding of expectations. The code is based on three core principles, **The Way Forward: Be Ready, Be Respectful, and Be Safe**. In addition, new classroom referral steps have been introduced, along with an updated referral and monitoring system to support positive behaviour. This work was supported by specialist training from **Steve Baker**, who continues to work with the school to further strengthen and develop provision.



As we come to the end of the term, we would like to say farewell to **Miss Catrin Baum** and **Mrs Myfanwy French**, and thank them both sincerely for their dedicated work and valuable contribution to the life of Ysgol Eifionydd. We wish them every success for the future.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to **Mrs Beth Bentley**, who has recently joined the school, and note that **Miss Hanna Jones** will be joining the office team shortly.